

been regularly corrected by intercalation so as to bring it into harmony with the solar year. But as to the mode of intercalation our authorities differ. According to the positive statement of Sahagun, one of the earliest and best authorities, the Mexicans corrected the deficiency of their year by intercalating one day in every fourth year, which is precisely the correction adopted in the Alexandrian and the Julian calendar. See B. de Sahagun, *op. cit.* pp. 286 *sq.*, where he expressly asserts the falsehood of the view that the bissextile year was unknown to the Mexicans. This weighty statement is confirmed by the practice of the Indians of Yucatan. Like the Aztecs, they reckoned a year to consist of 360 days divided into 18 months of 20 days each, with 5 days added so as to make a total of 365 days, but every fourth year they intercalated a day so as to make a

total of 366 days. See Diego de Lancia, *Relation des choses de Yucatan* (Paris, 1864) 5 pp. 202 *sqq.* On the other hand the historian Clavigero, who lived in the eighteenth century, but used earlier authorities, tells us that the Mexicans "did not interpose a day every four years, but thirteen days (making use here even of this favourite number) every fifty-two years ; which produces the same regulation of time" (*History of Mexico*, Second Edition, London, 1807, vol. i. p. 293). However, the view that the Mexicans corrected their year by intercalation is rejected by Professor E. Seler. See his "Mexican Chronology," in *Bulletin* 28 of the Bureau of American Ethnology (Washington, 1904), pp. 1 *sqq.*; and on the other side Miss Zelia Nuttall, "The Periodical Adjustments of the Ancient Mexican Calendar," *American Anthropologist* N.S. vi. (1904) pp. 486-500.